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Date: March 18, 2019

To: The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

From: Justin Murakami, Manager, Prevention Education and Public Policy
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of H.C.R. 28 and H.R. 33, with Amendments
Encouraging the Department of Education and other stakeholders to
continue to meet as a working group and implement a new program for
sexual-violence prevention in public schools.

Good afternoon Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and members of
the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports H.C.R. 28 and H.R. 33,
and respectfully submits friendly amendments for the Committee's consideration.

Sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health, and
wellbeing of children and young people in the State of Hawaii.

Our local experience is instructive: more than half of the many thousands of
survivors on Oahu that have historically received SATC's services were younger
than 18 years old at the time they were assaulted. In addition, we note that the U.S.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey
2013 - 2017 indicated that children and young people in Hawaii experience sexual
violence at rates equivalent to or higher than their mainland counterparts, and in
some Hawaii counties these rates are substantially higher than elsewhere in the
United States.

Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, it is important
that children and young people in Hawaii be taught the knowledge and skills they
need to protect themselves against sexual assault, obtain help to end abuse as
quickly as possible, and create a strong culture of respect and non-violence.
Moreover, it is critical that parents, educators, and school staff receive sufficient
training and information to understand key sexual violence issues and how to
respond appropriately.

Recognizing this need, the Department of Education (DOE), the Department of Health (DOH), and SATC are working together and gathering a group of government and community stakeholders to review and improve the delivery of sexual violence prevention education and training in Hawaii.

H.C.R. 28 and H.R. 33 would further support this effort by encouraging the voluntarily convened working group to continue meeting, and by requesting that the group timely report to the Legislature and the Board of Education about the progress of our work and relevant policy and resource recommendations.

Reflecting the collaborative nature of our work, we join the DOE and DOH in respectfully requesting the attached amendments.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of H.C.R. 28 and H.R. 33.

Exhibit A

Requested Amendments

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER
STAKEHOLDERS TO ~~CONTINUE TO~~ MEET AS A WORKING GROUP ~~AND TO~~
~~IMPLEMENT A NEW PROGRAM FOR~~ SEXUAL-VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN PUBLIC
SCHOOLS.

. . .

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the
State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Department
of Education and other agency and community stakeholders are encouraged to
continue to meet as a working group ~~and to implement a new program for sexual-~~
~~violence prevention in public schools~~; and

. . .



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

TESTIMONY—HCR 28/HR 33, ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTINUE TO MEET AS A WORKING GROUP AND TO IMPLEMENT A NEW PROGRAM FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019

Jeanné Kapela, UNITE Hawaii Executive Director

POSITION: COMMENTS

Chair Woodson and committee members,

Hawai'i is home to over 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments, with the average age a victim is first exploited being only 13-years-old. We are also a target for "cybertrafficking," with over 110,000 ads for local prostitution posted online each year. Yet, the numbers fail to fully capture the human toll of the commercial sex trade, a tragedy we witness each day in the eyes of the survivors we serve.

UNITE is an educational nonprofit devoted to ending sex trafficking in Hawai'i. Through outreach and awareness in local schools, we provide students with the skills necessary to prevent exploitation by building healthy relationships and learning communities. Our program, "It Ends With Us," explains how trafficking works in the 21st Century, preparing students to recognize threatening situations and respond to potential abuse. To date, we have provided anti-trafficking education to thousands of keiki in our state's public schools. Working with UNITE's strategic partner, IMUAlliance, we have also helped to emancipate sex trafficking victims from local brothels in the Ala Moana area. For both victims who self-identify at schools we visit and those for whom we've provided direct intervention services, sexual abuse is often noted as a precursor to sex trafficking.

Sex trafficking is the compulsion of a person into prostitution by force, fraud, or coercion. Traffickers often use intermediate and high school students to build their fortunes, preying upon teenage insecurities, sexual impulses, socioeconomic impoverishment, and, more recently, social media access to recruit, groom, and “break in” our youth for the sex trade. Victims of sex trafficking are highly traumatized to the point that they lose their sense of identity, sometimes becoming so dehumanized that they can no longer understand the concept of rape. Moreover, modern technology has made it easier to reach and threaten victims, as information is readily available on the internet. Online technology can also be weaponized to humiliate individuals through the rapid distribution of nonconsensual pornography.

UNITE employs a standards-based anti-trafficking curriculum that includes a post assessment and service learning component. At each school we visit, students have identified themselves or their peers as in danger or in the midst of being trafficked. Our model is under constant revision to maximize its compliance with best educational practices and newly enacted education policies, is overseen by professional educators and education specialists, and comports with the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.

We fully support this resolution’s support for a working group to address sexual violence prevention education in our state’s public education system. **We note, however, that the Department of Education’s working group, convened in October of 2018, appears to largely exclude members of the anti-trafficking victim service provider community, based on conversations with several of our primary organizational peers.** While often coeval with sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation carries a number of risks and consequences unique to its own survivor population. Accordingly, **we would urge the DOE to include victim service providers for trafficked youth, like ourselves, in the working group as its discussions move forward.**



HCR 28/HR 33, ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTINUE TO MEET AS A WORKING GROUP AND TO IMPLEMENT A NEW PROGRAM FOR SEXUAL-VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MARCH 18, 2019 · HOUSE LOWER AND HIGHER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. JUSTIN H.
WOODSON

POSITION: Comments.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance provides comments on HCR 28/HR 33, which encourages the Department of Education and other stakeholders to continue to meet as a working group and to implement a new program for sexual violence prevention in public schools.

While we support this resolution's endorsement of a working group to address sexual-violence prevention education in our state's public school system, **we are disappointed that the Department of Education's working group, convened in October of 2018, excludes many important members of the anti-trafficking victim service provider community, which has become clear in conversations with our strategic partners.** Sexual abuse is often a red flag for the commercial sexual exploitation of children, but sex trafficking carries a number of risks and consequences that are unique to the complex and overlapping trauma of trafficking survivors. In late 2017, Suzanne Mulcahy, former Asst. Superintendent of the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Support, was tasked with creating a working group to address sexual violence in local schools. At the time, Mulcahy's suggested working group membership included several anti-trafficking service providers, including IMUAlliance, UNITE Hawai'i, Ho'ola Na Pua, the Susannah

Wesley Community Center, and organizations to be determined later, as well as the Sex Abuse Treatment Center. It appears that only the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, an organization whose Erin's Law legislation serves as the basis for this resolution, made the cut. We appreciate the excellent work of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center in providing care to myriad victims of sexual abuse and facilitating school-based prevention education programs. That said, we are shocked that the voice of service providers devoted exclusively to working with victims of sex trafficking have been silenced, with no pathway for providing input to the working group, much less membership, appearing on the horizon. Accordingly, **we strongly urge the DOE to include anti-trafficking service providers like ourselves, in future working group deliberations.**

Sex traffickers prey on our state's school children, often loitering around public school campuses to target our children. Traffickers are experts in observing and selecting their victims, and often infiltrate public schools by using students to recruit their peers. One of the largest child sex trafficking rings discovered on Hawai'i's shores was unearthed in 2014. It included 16 students, most whom were students at Mililani High School and Moanalua High School, two of our state's top performing schools.

We are one of the state's largest victim service providers for survivors of sex trafficking, for which childhood sexual abuse is frequently a precursor. Over the past 10 years, we have provided comprehensive direct intervention services to 130 victims, successfully emancipating them from slavery and assisting in their restoration, while providing a range of targeted services to over 1,000 victims in total. We are also a leading provider of anti-sexual-exploitation education, teaching over 10,000 students each year about the perils of sex trafficking and the commercial sex trade.

When we provide anti-trafficking instruction in the Department of Education schools, students report that themselves or someone they know are being or at risk of being trafficking at a 2:1 ratio—two victims for every class we teach. Teachers, in turn, frequently request information and assistance in meeting the needs of traumatized students and preventing their children from being ensnared by our state's prolific slave trade. Each of the victims we have assisted has suffered from complex and overlapping trauma, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, dissociation, parasuicidal behavior, and substance abuse. Trafficking-related trauma can lead to a complete loss of identity. A victim we cared for in 2016,

for example, had become so heavily bonded to her pimp that while under his grasp, she couldn't remember her own name.

Sex trafficking is a profoundly violent crime. The Average age of entry into commercial sexual exploitation is 13-years-old, with 60 percent of sex trafficked children being under the age of 16. Approximately 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments are operational in Hawai'i. An estimated 1,500-2,500 women and children are victimized by sex traffickers in our state annually. Over 110,000 advertisements for Hawai'i-based prostitution are posted online each year, a number that has *not* decreased with the recent shuttering of Backpage.com's "adult services" section. More than 80 percent of runaway youth report being approached for sexual exploitation while on the run, over 30 percent of whom are targeted within the first 48 hours of leaving home.

With regard to mental health, sex trafficking victims are twice as likely to suffer from PTSD as a soldier in a war zone. Greater than 80 percent of victims report being repeatedly raped and 95 percent of report being physically assaulted, numbers that are underreported, according to the United States Department of State and numerous trauma specialists, because of the inability of many victims to recognize sexual violence as such. As one underage victim—now a survivor—told IMUAlliance prior to being rescued, "I can't be raped. Only good girls can be raped. I'm a bad girl. If I *want* to be raped, I have to *earn* it."

To stop slavery in Hawai'i, we must prevent victimization before it begins by establishing comprehensive and responsive prevention education programs for students and faculty alike.



healthymothers
healthybabies
COALITION OF HAWAII

To: House Committee on Lower and Higher Education
Hearing Date/Time: 3/18/19 at 2:00PM

Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 28 and HR 33 – RESOLUTION ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION
EDUCATION IN HAWAII'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Good afternoon Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii (HMHB) strongly supports H.C.R. 28 and H.R. 33, and respectfully submits amendments, as proposed by the Sex Abuse Treatment Center for the Committee's consideration.

Sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health, and wellbeing of children and young people in the State of Hawaii. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2013 - 2017 indicated that children and young people in Hawaii experience sexual violence at rates equivalent to or higher than their mainland counterparts, and in some Hawaii counties these rates are substantially higher than elsewhere in the United States.

Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, it is important that children and young people in Hawaii be taught the knowledge and skills they need to protect themselves against sexual assault, obtain help to end abuse as quickly as possible, and create a strong culture of respect and non-violence. Moreover, it is critical that parents, educators, and school staff receive sufficient training and information to understand key sexual violence issues and how to respond appropriately.

Recognizing this need, it is vital to gather a group of government and community stakeholders to review and improve the delivery of sexual violence prevention education and training in Hawaii. H.C.R. 28 and H.R. 33 would support this effort.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of H.C.R. 28 and H.R. 33.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kimura
Executive Director

HR-33

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 6:09:31 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lea Minton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this resolution. I encourage legislators to adopt the Sex Abuse Treatment Center's, DOH's, and DOE's recommended amendments.